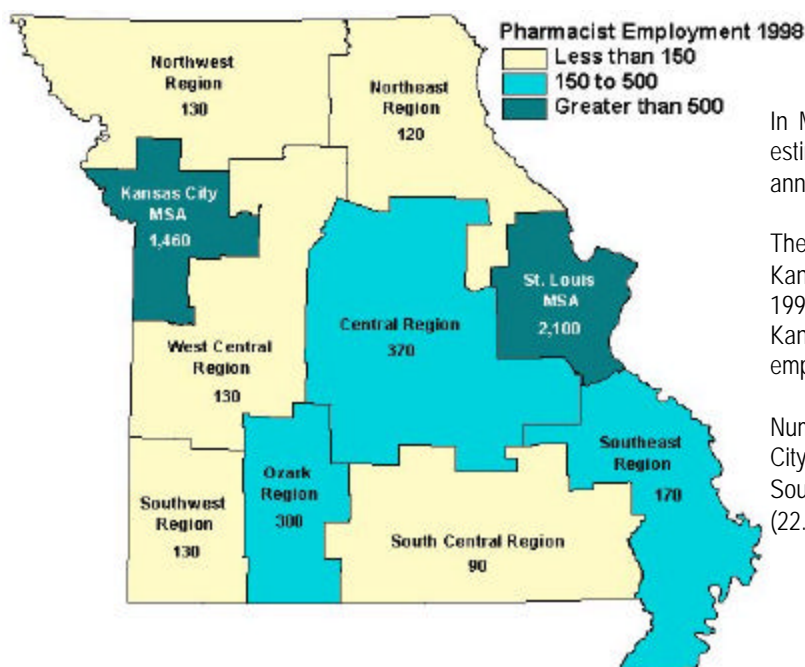


OCCUPATIONAL DESCRIPTION

Pharmacists dispense drugs prescribed by physicians and other health practitioners, and provide information to patients about medications and their use. They advise physicians and other health practitioners on the selection, dosages, interactions, and side effects of medications. Pharmacists must understand the use, composition, and clinical effects of drugs. A pharmacist's practice includes mixing of ingredients to consumable forms, and answering questions about prescription drugs, such as possible adverse reactions or interactions. Pharmacists also provide information and give advice about over-the-counter drugs, medical equipment and home health care supplies. Pharmacists specialize in medical purchasing, management and drug therapy areas, such as psychiatric disorders, intravenous nutrition support, oncology, nuclear pharmacy, and pharmacotherapy.



In Missouri there were 4,120 pharmacists in 1998, with employment estimated to grow by 7.3% through 2008. On average, there are 140 annual job openings for pharmacists.

The majority of pharmacists in Missouri are located in the St. Louis and Kansas City metro areas. St. Louis employed 2,100 pharmacists in 1998, with estimated employment growth of 11.4% through 2008. Kansas City employed 1,460 pharmacists in 1998, with estimated employment growth of 7.5% through 2008.

Numerical job growth is fastest in the St. Louis (240 jobs) and Kansas City (110 jobs) metro areas. Percent job growth is fastest in the Southeast (29.4% growth), Ozark (23.3% growth) and South Central (22.2% growth) regions.

PHARMACIST EMPLOYMENT TRENDS 1998-2008

REGION	EMPLOYMENT		GROWTH	PERCENT CHANGE	ANNUAL OPENINGS
	1998	2008			
Central Region	370	420	50	13.5%	15
Kansas City Metropolitan Area	1,460	1,570	110	7.5%	50
Northeast Region	120	130	10	8.3%	3
Northwest Region	130	140	10	7.7%	5
Ozark Region	300	370	70	23.3%	15
South Central Region	90	110	20	22.2%	4
Southeast Region	170	220	50	29.4%	8
Southwest Region	130	150	20	15.4%	6
St. Louis Metropolitan Area	2,100	2,340	240	11.4%	82
West Central Region	130	130	0	0.0%	4
MISSOURI	4,120	4,420	300	7.3%	140

Totals are not additive.

Source: MERIC, MO Department of Economic Development

SOC BACKGROUND

Standard Occupational Classifications (SOCs) are used to group all occupations in the economy, including private, public and military occupations. It is used by all Federal agencies that collect occupational data.

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER

SOC CLASSIFICATION

Covers all occupations and work done for pay or profit. Includes uncompensated work in family-operated firms. Occupations are based on work performed, education, training and skills.

PHARMACIST WAGE TRENDS 1998

REGION	HOURLY WAGE	ANNUAL WAGE
Central Region	\$27.53	\$57,262
Kansas City Metropolitan Area	\$27.78	\$57,782
Northeast Region	\$28.95	\$60,216
Northwest Region	\$25.85	\$53,768
Ozark Region	\$28.32	\$58,906
South Central Region	\$27.08	\$56,326
Southeast Region	\$27.55	\$57,304
Southwest Region	\$30.59	\$63,627
St. Louis Metropolitan Area	\$28.02	\$58,282
West Central Region	\$26.34	\$54,787
MISSOURI	\$27.82	\$57,866
UNITED STATES	\$30.31	\$63,030

Pharmacists in Missouri earn less than their counterparts nationally, earning an average of \$57,866 in Missouri compared to \$63,030 nationally.

Pharmacists in Missouri are best paid in the Southwest Region, earning \$63,627. Pharmacists are least paid in the Northwest Region, earning \$53,768.

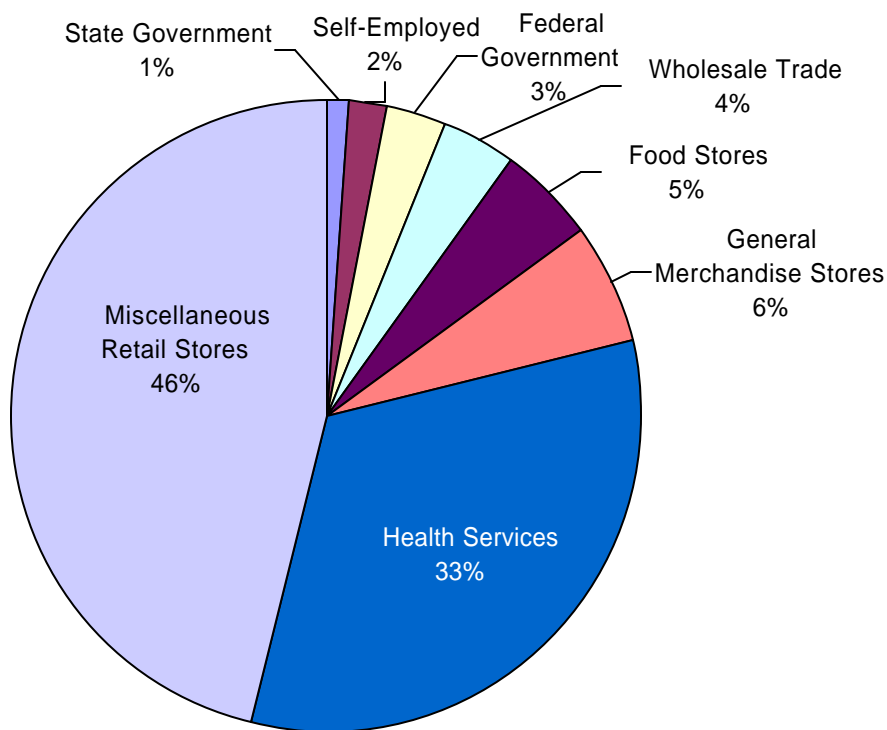
Source: OES, MO Department of Economic Development

PHARMACIST EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY 1998

The majority of pharmacists in Missouri were employed in retail trade (57%) and health services (33%). Within retail trade, 6% were employed in merchandise stores, 5% in food stores and 46% in other retail stores.

Only 4% of Missouri's pharmacists were employed in Federal or State government.

Source: MERIC, MO Department of Economic Development



JOB OUTLOOK FOR PHARMACISTS

Employment of pharmacists is expected to grow slower than the average for all occupations through the year 2008, despite the increased pharmaceutical needs of a larger and older population, and greater use of medication. Retail pharmacies are taking steps to increase their prescription volume to make up for declining dispensing fees. Automation of drug dispensing and greater use of pharmacy technicians will help them to dispense more prescriptions. The number of community pharmacists needed in the future will depend on the expansion rate of chain drug stores and the willingness of insurers to reimburse pharmacists for providing clinical services to patients taking prescription medications.

Slower employment growth is expected in traditional chain and independent pharmacies. Employment in hospitals is also expected to grow slowly, as hospitals reduce inpatient stays, downsize, and consolidate departments.

Pharmacy services are shifting to long-term, ambulatory, and home care settings, where opportunities for pharmacists will be best. New opportunities for pharmacists are emerging in managed care organizations, where pharmacists analyze trends and patterns in medication use for their populations of patients. Fast growth is also expected for pharmacists trained in research, disease management, and pharmacoeconomics.